
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street Room 103
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Date: May 14, 2012
Time: 3:00 p.m.

CHARTER BID PACKET AVAILABLE FOR NORTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE WATERS SABLEFISH LONGLINE SURVEY

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) seeks two chartered commercial fishing vessels to conduct a longline survey assessing relative abundance and biological characteristics of sablefish stocks in the Northern Southeast Inside (NSEI) Subdistrict in July 2012. Chartered longline vessels will be contracted for up to 14 days beginning on July 24, 2012. Charter bid packets for the survey are available in Douglas, Petersburg, and Sitka offices. Details of the survey, including a work summary and minimum qualifications, follow. Charter bid packets are due in the Douglas office by 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 23, 2012. The contract will be awarded to the two lowest bidders that meet the minimum qualifications after a five percent Alaska bidder's preference is applied.

The survey encompasses 15 longline sets each in the northern and middle portions and 14 longline sets in the southern portion of NSEI (Chatham Strait). Chartered vessels will fish one of three survey portions as assigned by the department. The survey is expected to require approximately seven days of fishing and travel time, but weather or mechanical problems could extend this time. Interested vessel owners must provide a vessel captain with a minimum of three years of experience operating a vessel in the NSEI commercial sablefish fishery. In addition, three crew members must be provided; two crew members must have a minimum of three years of commercial longlining experience, a third crewmember must be capable of all of these tasks, but three years minimum experience is not required. The vessel crew is responsible for offloading of the fish at the processor or tender. The department will provide bait, hooks, and longline skates used on the survey. Survey vessels will be responsible for fuel and all other fishing gear. The vessel must have a deck with a sheltered area for fish sampling and a sheltered marine head. The vessel must have an operational DGPS, 24-mile radar, color video sounder, and VHF. Additional details are provided in the charter bid packet.

Two department employees will be deployed on each chartered vessel to collect survey data. Meals and accommodations for each department employee onboard the vessel will be provided by each contract vessel for the duration of the survey. Chartered vessels must provide evidence of having successfully completed a United States Coast Guard Commercial Fisheries Vessel Safety Inspection in the 12 months preceding the start of the survey.

For further information please contact Forrest Bowers, (907) 465-1191, forrest.bowers@alaska.gov, or Kristen Green, (907) 747-2683, kristen.green@alaska.gov.

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